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Chair: Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair) (Spain)
later: Mr. Djani (Chair) (Indonesia)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Mr. Diaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Thammavongsa** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the Sustainable Development Goals had been mainstreamed into the eighth five-year national socioeconomic development plan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, adopted in April 2016. In addition, efforts to clear unexploded ordnance, which remained a major obstacle to people's livelihoods and national development, had been carried over from the Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In September, the Prime Minister and the Secretary-General had met in Vientiane and officially launched a programme to continue that work.

2. Enhanced partnership was extremely important to mobilize sufficient resources to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should support the special development needs and priorities of countries in special situations. Contributions from the international community, including official development assistance (ODA), had done much to support his Government's efforts to eradicate poverty and graduate from least developed country status.

3. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had been among the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and hoped that it would enter into force by the end of 2016.

4. **Ms. Abdoullah** (Malaysia) said that the threat of another economic crisis loomed, and such a crisis would particularly affect the smaller economies. International financial regulation should be strengthened. There should be monitoring and supervision, with effective fiscal measures put in place. Malaysia called for a redoubling of efforts to aid countries in special situations.

5. Malaysia reaffirmed the vital importance of South-South cooperation. Such cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for North-South cooperation, but rather as a complement to it.

6. Middle-income countries had achieved substantial progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Those gains should be consolidated so that those countries did not experience setbacks. The lack of resources must be addressed to ensure progress on the 2030 Agenda. Effective redistributive policies and support for social services were needed to continue addressing poverty.

7. In Malaysia, a well-calibrated redistributive policy that promoted growth and development had been critical to drive the economy forward. Sound environmental policies were also a part of Malaysia's approach to sustainability. The voluntary national reviews under the high-level political forum on sustainable development had enabled sharing of experiences and lessons learned with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals. Malaysia therefore wished to participate in the 2017 voluntary national review to share its progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

8. **Mr. Wafy** (Niger), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda was essential for the African continent, and for developing countries as a whole. The current session of the Committee was an important platform and tool for ensuring that the implementation mechanisms were made more efficient. Africa's priorities were informed by Agenda 2063, the continent's strategic framework for socioeconomic transformation, which built on and sought to accelerate the implementation of past and existing initiatives for growth and sustainable development, including the fulfilment of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. No aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals would be realized without the requisite means of implementation. It was therefore important for ODA commitments to be fulfilled; for the illicit flow of funds and resources out of Africa to be curbed; for equitable and affordable access to information and communications technology to be ensured; and for restrictive trade measures to be replaced by a strong multilateral trading system.

10. Africa, which had barely contributed to climate change, was suffering greatly from its adverse impacts, which were threatening to undermine the continent's development gains. It was experiencing such consequences as drought, flooding and the spread of climate-sensitive diseases, climate-induced displacement and loss of ecosystem and biodiversity, and increasing temperatures. The Group of African States therefore looked forward to the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and hoped that it would provide further opportunities to accelerate efforts to curb the negative effects of climate change.

11. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be accelerated, as they would do much to determine future prosperity. International solidarity and cooperation were key to economic growth. A common framework for trade and technology transfer was needed to address the economic crisis, speed up recovery and build more inclusive societies. The United Nations must address the architecture of the international financial and trade system, which was designed to favour developed countries and punish the less developed countries.

12. Financing for development was crucial to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; ODA had a central role in that regard.

13. The term 'middle-income countries' must be redefined to factor in structural imbalances, which were not reflected in per capita income figures, where income was averaged across populations. The new focus on extreme inequality as a brake on sustainable development was a major step forward that could no longer be ignored in country classifications. Other elements must also be considered, such as poverty, investment, savings, productivity, innovation, education, gender and the environment. There must be greater awareness of the changing needs of societies that were evolving at different levels.

14. The global economic governance structures, and in particular the international financial and monetary system, must be reformed in order to ensure greater efficiency and coordination, through increased United Nations participation and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The main objective of the reforms should be to establish democracy and equality as the guiding principles of governance and to provide for stronger participation by developing countries in the work of the Bretton Woods institutions, which was essential to strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of those institutions.

15. Sovereign debt must be restructured at the multilateral level, since the problem affected a very large number of countries. It was important to address the lack of international standards for sovereign debt restructuring and the urgent need for an appropriate response to claims of non-repayment of debt. El Salvador and Bolivia would be co-hosting a workshop on sovereign debt vulnerabilities and the possibility of a new debt renegotiation mechanism based on General Assembly processes, to take place on 31 October 2016. Progress on those fronts would contribute to making the world economy healthier, fairer and more developed.

16. El Salvador welcomed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which would protect the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their status, and acknowledged the valuable contributions of migrant workers to their countries of origin, particularly in the form of remittances, and to transit and destination countries.

17. **Mr. Sevilla Borja** (Ecuador) said that the need for structural changes in the global economy and international financial system was related to developing countries' difficulties in attaining sustainable development. It was essential for the developed countries to meet their commitment of contributing 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to ODA. The excesses of the international financial system had widened the inequality gap worldwide. Dialogue was needed to increase transparency, regulation and good governance in the international financial system, and thereby promote international peace and stability.

18. Tax systems were a development tool that could be put to work to eradicate poverty and achieve a better distribution of income and wealth within and across countries, and eliminate illegal forms of accumulation of wealth based on speculative practices and profits derived from environmental degradation. Tax evasion, illegal financial flows and tax havens constituted a

common challenge which must be confronted. In Ecuador, 30 per cent of GDP was concealed in tax havens. Many projects to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality could be implemented if the tax income from those funds could be made available. A referendum to be held in 2017 would determine the degree of popular support for a measure to prohibit the use of tax havens by all public servants, including those who were popularly elected.

19. While development cooperation was beneficial, it was a drop in an ocean of injustice, given the massive quantity of uncollected resources. Development was a political issue. Member States should create a democratic, binding intergovernmental body for discussion of tax matters, in order to eliminate tax havens.

20. The Ecuadoran development model was based on the concept of "buen vivir," an ancestral vision of the cosmos that sought to build a society based on harmony among human beings and between humans and nature. The model prioritized the human being over capital, and satisfying the basic needs of the majority over the excesses of the unregulated market. Development models based on the prevailing production and consumption patterns, that failed to recognize environmental limits and fostered unlimited economic growth and the accumulation of wealth, were not sustainable. It was ironic that the free movement of goods and capital was supported in the interest of generating maximum profits while the free movement of people in search of decent work was penalized; that view was unsustainable and intolerable from an ethical standpoint.

21. Ecuador had proposed the establishment of an international environmental court of justice to penalize violations of the rights of nature and establish obligations with regard to environmental debt and consumption of environmental goods. It made no sense for courts to put countries on trial for measures supposedly detrimental to the investments of large multinational firms, while at the same time there were no courts to try entities that damaged the environment. The notion that the State was the sole entity that could violate human rights must be set aside, since violations were committed by other international actors, particularly transnational corporations. Ecuador had suffered violations at the hand of a non-State actor when Chevron Texaco had contaminated rivers, forests and the soil in the Amazon region, causing illness and death.

22. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo) said that during the first session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development there had been reference to the difficulties and challenges countries faced as they undertook to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee should build on the Forum's recommendations and should pay special attention to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in order to strengthen the operational capacities of the United Nations development system as the Goals were being implemented. Effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require strengthened partnerships.

23. The Congo was taking ownership of the 2030 Agenda by launching a nationwide awareness campaign on the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of developing a national implementation strategy and by establishing a programme to reduce carbon emissions resulting from land degradation and deforestation. To that end, his Government was seeking international support for technology transfer and capacity-building.

24. The Congo had signed the Paris Agreement earlier in the year, and called upon States to accelerate ratification of the Agreement with a view to its entry into force in the very near future. In light of the upcoming twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Congo urged the Committee to promote consolidation of the gains achieved under the Paris Agreement.

25. **Mr. Efameabdal** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the Committee should play a major role in realizing the shared vision embodied in the 2030 Agenda and in the review of its implementation, in order to make any necessary corrections and ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. Taking into account the lessons learnt from the efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals, his Government had chosen to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into its national strategic development plan. The plan was a framework for the coordination of policies and actions, which took

into account climate change issues, the priorities of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the goal of raising the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the level of a middle-income country by 2021, based on agricultural reform; an emerging country by 2030, based on intensive industrialization; and a developed country by 2050, by becoming a knowledge society. The plan would be implemented through five-year plans, the first of which would begin in 2017.

27. The priority of the first five-year plan to was improve human capital by taking advantage of the demographic dividend, which required close collaboration among various development actors at the national and international levels to guarantee strong, sustained, and above all inclusive economic growth. Special attention was therefore being accorded to the specific health, education and job needs of young people and women.

28. His Government was working to achieve poverty reduction and redistribution of the dividends of economic growth and develop the economic and social infrastructure necessary to achieve well-being for the population. Transportation infrastructure was also being built to provide outlets for agricultural and mining products and to make people and goods more mobile. In addition to the challenge of strengthening the national statistical and census system to provide reliable, up-to-date data for the design, follow-up and evaluation of development programmes, his country also faced challenges in securing financing on more flexible terms and from diversified sources. The country was in a crucial phase of administrative decentralization to respond to concerns at the grass roots level. Each of the 26 newly-formed provinces had authorities elected by the people in 2016. That new democratic experience would continue, with transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections to be carried out in a peaceful atmosphere.

29. Climate change was an unprecedented environmental challenge. Following its signature of the Paris Agreement, his Government had begun work to complete ratification before the end of the year. It also welcomed the recent adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Thousands were dying in the Mediterranean. That must be stopped, and the root causes of those mass movements, which were poverty, armed conflict and a lack of resilience in responding to disasters, must be addressed so that all citizens of the world, and of developing countries in particular, could live happily and in peace in their own countries.

30. It was only when the special needs of the least developed countries were effectively taken into account that it would be possible to leave no one behind. It was important to win the struggle against poverty so as to avoid the tragic consequences of development failure. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the Group of 20 Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals and called on the developed countries to keep their commitments with regard to the developing countries, in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

31. **Mr. Mhura** (Malawi) said that although the economy of Malawi had suffered over the previous two years owing to El Niño, his Government had undertaken several economic initiatives to improve its financial management system and reform public services. It was responding to challenges caused by floods and droughts through a new climate change policy.

32. In 2015, Malawi had passed a momentous law on marriage, divorce and family relations which, among other issues, addressed the issue of child marriage by raising the age of marriage to 18 years. The focus of the law was the girl child: her education, her right to childhood, her right to family planning and the elimination of gender-based violence. The law was key to ensuring the socioeconomic development of Malawi. It was receiving support from traditional leaders in rural areas where it was likely to face challenges.

33. The inconclusive nature of the trade negotiations on duty-free, quota-free access to products from the least developed countries under the Doha Round was exacerbating the challenges faced by landlocked nations. His delegation therefore hoped that the negotiations could be brought to a successful conclusion.

34. Malawi was exploring many initiatives to strengthen its economy and was seeking public and private partners across the globe to ensure its economic development in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. Foremost in that effort was support for education, including higher education, and

for national statistical systems, in order to enhance data collection and research capacities to underpin appropriate decision-making. New universities were being established in Malawi. In that regard, his delegation supported a strengthening of the University for Peace and perhaps the establishment of a university for development.

35. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which would play a key role in setting the stage for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, would reflect the key priorities of the least developed countries and the needs of countries in special situations.

36. **Ms. Byaje** (Rwanda) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda had led to a common understanding that global development was a shared responsibility. It was necessary to work together to overcome the numerous hurdles that could hamper transformative economic change, caused, for example, by excessive reliance on a few commodities for economic growth, which had plunged many countries into recession. In Africa, the sharp decline in the growth of GDP over the past year would adversely affect the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, since high and inclusive growth was needed to eradicate poverty by 2030. The situation called for robust policymaking, with a strong emphasis on structural transformation and diversification of economies.

37. Rwanda had maintained its resilience during difficult times by diversifying growth sectors. It would continue to invest in its main asset, its people, to enhance citizen empowerment and build community capacity, enabling citizens to identify priorities in local development planning that responded to their basic needs. Civic participation was coupled with accountability mechanisms to tackle inequalities and entrench good governance and the rule of law. There would be a continued focus on building inclusive, representative, transparent and responsible institutions to foster greater inclusion of all, while ensuring that the special needs of children, youth, women, genocide survivors, persons with disabilities and the elderly were addressed.

38. Rwanda was collecting, identifying and prioritizing indicators in order to produce reliable disaggregated data to ensure grassroots ownership of the development process. There was a strong focus on national leadership and ownership, as well as on planning and budgeting, to ensure the success of the 2030 Agenda.

39. Features of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Rwanda included civic ownership of implementation;; a renewed focus on gender equality, youth participation and care for the most vulnerable; attention to infrastructure and energy gaps and inclusive, job-rich industrialization, while fostering regional integration; and an awareness that enablers such as adequate financing and means of implementation, as well as the use of science and technology and particularly Internet broadband, were crucial to making an impact in implementing the Agenda. In addition, Rwanda was engaged in preparedness and awareness-raising to help the country become climate-resilient.

40. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe), stressing the need for the universal implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda was a major challenge for developing countries, given the huge financial resources required. Revitalized global partnerships would be required for the provision of financial resources, transfer of technology and targeted capacity-building support. Global follow-up and review of the Agenda must remain a process led by the United Nations.

41. Poverty eradication was a responsibility that must be shared by all countries through international cooperation. Special attention must be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty. It was important to create an international environment that was truly supportive of national efforts to eradicate poverty and promoted economic growth and social development on a sustainable basis.

42. While international trade was an engine for inclusive and sustained economic growth and poverty eradication, the continuing imbalances, discrimination and inequalities in the current multilateral trading system were holding back developing countries as they attempted to achieve their goals. Zimbabwe called for a speedy conclusion to the negotiations in the Doha Development Round and achievement of an agreement on a universal, rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and

equitable multilateral trading system that removed all trade-distorting subsidies that blocked developing countries' exports, especially exports of agricultural products.

43. All countries must work together to improve the international environment for financing for development. All Member States and development partners must demonstrate their commitment to participate constructively in the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up. Future forums must come up with substantive and action-oriented intergovernmentally agreed outcomes to lay the foundation for an effective review process and implementation of the financing for development outcomes and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

44. Achieving sustained economic growth required the reform, revitalization and restructuring of international financial institutions to ensure greater effectiveness and responsiveness to developing countries' development needs. Those institutions must be better equipped to fully discharge their respective mandates for fostering development and accelerating economic growth, social justice and sustainable development in developing countries. The functions of the International Monetary Fund in coordinating the macroeconomic policies of all its members, including industrialized countries, should be reinforced. The development lending role of the World Bank should be increased, particularly for infrastructure investments. Developing countries must have greater representation and voice in the decision-making of all international financial institutions.

45. The United Nations was the appropriate forum to promote international cooperation in tax matters and set international tax standards and regulations. Zimbabwe was deeply concerned about the lack of commitment by some Member States to promoting international cooperation on tax matters. All countries should have an equal say in international tax rules. Capacity-building support should be provided to developing countries to help them strengthen their tax collection capacities. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be upgraded to an intergovernmental body.

46. Zimbabwe was also concerned by the lack of commitment of some Member States to address the problem of illicit financial flows. There should be an inclusive, universal, intergovernmental instrument charged with ensuring collective responsibility and cooperation in the fight against illicit financial flows.

47. Developed countries should fulfil their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide the means of implementation, including financial resources, to assist developing countries with both mitigation and adaptation actions, in line with the outcomes of the Paris Agreement.

48. **Mr. Aljamali** (Yemen) said that if the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, and poverty eradication in particular, were not translated into actions on the ground, the Sustainable Development Goals would remain mere ink on paper. Noting that his country had recently signed the Paris Agreement, he reminded delegations that although the main victims of climate change were in the least developed countries, its primary causes originated in the developed world.

49. After making great strides towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Yemen was experiencing slower progress as a result of the coup perpetrated against the legitimate Government by the Houthi militias in alliance with the former President. The international community should provide extra support for countries in conflict situations or other special circumstances. His delegation looked forward to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) to be held in October 2016, and hoped that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would enhance the effectiveness of United Nations support to Member States.

50. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that Member States and United Nations agencies had tried to take into account national specificities and varying levels of development in formulating the development agenda. Milestones such as the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement reflected a determination to respond to development aspirations, foremost of which was the eradication of poverty. Climate change should be addressed on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Conflict and instability had humanitarian consequences not only for the countries where they occurred, but also for neighbouring States.

51. Although Kuwait was classified as a low-income developing State, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development provided assistance to people around the world. Kuwait was an active participant in development programmes and events organized by the United Nations and a firm supporter of global partnerships to eradicate poverty, relieve debt, address the effects of climate change and respond to the needs of countries in special circumstances. All the developed countries should meet the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA.

52. **Mr. Malawane** (South Africa) said that multilateral efforts to bridge the gap between the North and the South must be enhanced. National efforts by South Africa were in keeping with the integrated and transformative approach of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063, which aimed to achieve an inclusive, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Success in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would depend in large part on adequate means of implementation and meaningful follow-up and review architecture. The support of development partners was essential in ensuring the fulfilment of the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It was equally important to uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

53. His delegation was concerned that at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, some delegations had attempted to undermine the mandate of General Assembly resolution 68/1. That lack of cooperation had been further manifested during negotiations on the draft proposal concerning the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and on the convening of the second forum on financing for development. The proposal to hold the forum in May 2017 was procedurally flawed and not in line with resolution 68/1. The lack of cooperation had adversely affected his ability, as President of the Economic and Social Council, to carry out his mandate in preparing the next forum.

54. Financing for development and the 2030 Agenda must remain separate. The financing for development process must go beyond financing the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2030 Agenda needed to draw upon the means of implementation commitments captured in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. His delegation urged development partners to honour their ODA commitments.

55. Curbing illicit financial flows was vital for the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. Losses resulting from such flows were due not only to criminal activities or corruption, but primarily to commercial activities. South Africa was therefore committed to upgrading the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to a universal and intergovernmental body in order to tackle global tax matters, thereby giving the Committee a strengthened and enhanced mandate to support developing countries in dealing with tax issues, including illicit financial flows.

56. Agricultural development and food security should receive particular attention under the 2030 Agenda as tools for attaining sustainable development and achieving the overarching objective of poverty eradication. The focus should be on creating economic opportunities and enabling Member States and their communities to access those opportunities, while addressing the growing concerns about the effects of climate change. The Committee should focus on the socioeconomic dimension of conflict prevention, peace and security matters that should be addressed in the appropriate, mandated United Nations bodies.

57. South Africa looked forward to the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement, with the understanding that the pre-existing commitments of the developed countries must be honoured and that support in the form of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building would be provided to developing countries both pre- and post-2020. Early entry into force must not alter the 2020 commencement date for the new commitments or exclude any parties to the Agreement from the decision-making processes to operationalize the Agreement.

58. Implementation of the outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) would be a major challenge, given all the other global plans that must now be navigated. Nevertheless,. South Africa reaffirmed previous General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions calling for the

strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programmes (UN-Habitat) as the United Nations body entrusted with the issue of human settlements and the New Urban Agenda.

59. **Ms. Namgyel** (Bhutan) said that, as a landlocked and least developed country, Bhutan faced immense development challenges. In addition to inherent structural constraints, Bhutan continued to suffer the impact of climate change, and had experienced extensive destruction as a result of unprecedented flash floods in July 2016.

60. Bhutan was nonetheless pressing ahead with its development endeavours. The 2030 Agenda, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 provided the overall development framework for the pursuit of sustainable development. Bhutan echoed the call for effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, particularly within the least developed countries. It had begun the work of integrating the Goals into its national priorities and development planning framework. A mapping exercise had been undertaken to find linkages between the Goals and national development plans and to raise awareness of the Goals on the part of government officials, parliamentarians, civil society and media. The Sustainable Development Goals would be an integral part of Bhutan's development plans and programmes under its twelfth five-year plan.

61. The continued support of development partners was critical, with the success of the 2030 Agenda ultimately hinging on the quality of partnerships between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels. The Agenda required a United Nations development system that was able to deliver integrated and coordinated policy support on the ground, in response to national priorities and needs. An ambitious outcome of the new quadrennial comprehensive policy review that matched the ambitions of the Agenda and supported national-level implementation in least developed countries would be essential.

62. Although Bhutan had been identified as eligible for graduation from the least developed country category, the challenges facing it as a least developed country would remain even after it had met the graduation thresholds. Graduation must be seen in the larger context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The experiences of countries that had already graduated indicated clearly that graduation must be handled with care. Continued support from development partners was critical to ensure that least developed countries graduated on a sure footing and in a sustainable manner, so as to avoid the risk of backtracking on hard-won development gains.

63. **Ms. Kasese-Bota** (Zambia) said that the active pursuit of industrialization would lead to greater economic growth, particularly in developing countries in Africa and countries in special situations. Zambia, like many African countries, was rich in natural resources that could be transformed into raw materials for industrialization. The focus on economic diversification would help countries such as Zambia shift from primary production of minerals, crops and forest products to value-added products created through industrialization.

64. Zambia's seventh five-year national development plan, which would take effect in 2017, placed a special focus on development of rural areas to achieve maximum poverty reduction. As previous development plans had shown that high economic growth was not sufficient to address poverty, the current plan included a number of strategies, including industrialization, infrastructure development and a focus on agriculture and job creation.

65. Specific measures to address poverty, high unemployment, hunger and income inequality included diversification of the agricultural sector, promotion of forestry and establishment of multi-facility economic zones. As 70 per cent of people in rural areas depended on agriculture for their livelihood, her Government had prioritized agricultural production and the amalgamation of value chains in efforts to reduce dependence on the traditional mono-economy pattern. It continued to address the challenges faced by micro, small and medium enterprises, including access to finance, markets and technology, as well as entrepreneurial skill development. Such interventions should spur enterprise growth and contribute to meaningful job creation. To attain inclusive growth, Zambia would continue to prioritize investment in infrastructure, energy, water, transport, communications, education and health. Her

Government was also promoting the empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities and had set up entrepreneurship development programmes that targeted women and young people.

66. Zambia was already suffering the effects of climate change, including droughts, unpredictable weather patterns, floods and extreme temperatures. Climate change would be a priority area in the seventh national development plan.

67. The successful implementation of national development plans and their integration into the 2030 Agenda required sustainable financing. Goal 17 on means of implementation was therefore crucial. Increased support was needed for domestic resource mobilization, private sector financing, increased ODA and mutually beneficial foreign direct investment, including innovative sources of financing.

68. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda had yet to begin in real terms. It was important to reflect on the causes of the delay, which was not the first of its kind. The least developed countries had lost the first two decades dedicated to them and two half decades after that. No lessons had been drawn from the delayed implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The situation must be urgently addressed.

69. Although poverty was the breeding ground for most of the world's ills, the Member States had not been able to address that harsh, mundane reality and cast off all unhelpful rhetoric in order to deal with poverty head-on. National commitments, ownership, leadership, people-centric and accountable governance systems had done little for the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries. They must be complemented by robust international partnerships.

70. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was not about the mechanical meeting of goals and targets alone. It should be about fulfilling collective responsibilities for people and the planet, building on the accomplishments of the Millennium Development Goals and supporting the timely, full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda with adequate means of implementation.

71. The international community had an obligation to help the least developed countries graduate and ease the structural deficiencies of the landlocked developing countries as agreed in the programmes of action for those countries. The Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 should be implemented in full synergy and perfect coherence with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

72. Climate change posed an existential threat to some of the small island developing States, and Nepal was in full solidarity with those countries. There was an unrecognized organic linkage between mountains and seas. Many measures that reduced problems in the Himalayas such as avalanches, glacial lake outburst floods, other types of floods and landslides could help millions of people, whether deep inside landmasses or in the middle of oceans.

73. Nepal had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals and other development goals into its development plan as of July 2016. Post-earthquake reconstruction was designed to build back better and smarter. However, the narrow economic base in Nepal, its landlocked condition and high vulnerability, made worse by climate change, natural disasters, capacity shortfalls and weak means of implementation, impeded the sustainability of the country's development.

74. **Mr. Conte** (Guinea) said that his Government's policy priorities included restoring the rule of law; reassuring investors; relaunching the national economy; and addressing corruption. The first pillar was governance: improved governance and institutional reforms were of central importance since, without an independent justice system, it was not possible to combat corruption.

75. Mining held great industrial potential for Guinea, whose territory was home to one third of the world's bauxite reserves. Mining was therefore a priority in his Government's economic policy. Creation of a world-class mining industry would require a propitious investment environment, an updating of the land registry and streamlining of the management of mining concessions and of major mining projects. Implementation of programmes dating to the period between 2010 and 2015, involving investments of tens

of billions of dollars, could make Guinea a major mining centre in West Africa.

76. In line with the 2030 Agenda, his Government had initiated a national economic diversification plan that would involve carefully tapping national energy and agricultural potential. Support for farmers was aimed at boosting agricultural production and making Guinea the breadbasket of West Africa. Guinea's enormous potential in the areas of cotton, coffee, cocoa and cashew production would provide a basis for restoring its position as a major exporter of industrial products, strengthening sectors that provided foreign exchange and jobs for young people and women. Business, tourism, telecommunications and financial services were all areas that Guinea would seek to strengthen.

77. With revenue dropping, it was necessary to broaden the tax base, identify new sources of revenue and combat fraud and tax evasion. Improved road, railway, port and airport infrastructure also represented important challenges for the socioeconomic development of Guinea. While there had been encouraging progress in the ambitious programmes described, there was also a resource shortfall. The Ebola epidemic had plunged Guinea into two years of unprecedented health challenges, slowing economic growth and exerting a negative impact on all sectors of the national economy.Guinea needed bilateral and multilateral partners as never before, and appealed for support as it worked to lift itself up after the Ebola epidemic and stimulate economic growth.

78. *Mr. Djani (Indonesia) took the Chair.*

79. **Ms. Jemouvic** (Serbia) said that Serbia's support for implementation of the landmark agreements and agendas adopted in 2015 was unstinting and its priorities were unchanged. Eradication of poverty, higher levels of employment, inclusiveness, quality education and health protection underpinned Serbia's development strategy, with peace the basis of its development, along with the recognition that sustainable development was unattainable without respect for the rule of law and equal justice for all. In the past two years, Serbia had achieved significant results in the areas of economic growth and increased employment, especially for young people. The economy had registered growth of 2 per cent. Achieving gender equality and addressing violence against women and girls were at the centre of Government attention.

80. Her Government had established an intersectoral working group to implement the 2030 Agenda and would soon begin updating the national sustainable development strategy and its financing. Exchange of experiences and best practices were the way forward for implementation of the Agenda. Failure could not and must not be an option. While each country had primary responsibility for attaining the Goals, subregional, regional and global cooperation would be indispensable.

81. Hit by devastating floods two years earlier, Serbia recognized the urgent need for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. It had adopted the intended nationally determined contributions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and was elaborating a national climate change strategy and an action plan to identify the possibilities, timelines and concrete actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the national level. Serbia had signed the Paris Agreement, and the National Assembly was expected to ratify it in 2017.

82. During the previous 18 months,, more than 700,000 refugees and migrants had transited through Serbia, and there were currently more than 7,000 migrants in Serbia. Serbia frequently received praise from migrants themselves, as well as from United Nations bodies and the international community, for its solidarity and humanity. However, Serbia had for 20 years faced the problem of protracted displacement and knew that it lacked the capacity to provide long-term, mass shelter for migrants. It therefore welcomed the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants and called for a comprehensive European and global solution.

83. **Mr. Khiari** (Tunisia) said that the recent milestones in the push for sustainable development reflected growing international awareness of the need to overcome development gaps. He called on the international community to operationalize means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, and in particular the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with its focus on development financing, technology transfer and capacity-building for less developed countries. Such support would be particularly vital for implementation of the Paris Agreement.

84. Tunisia had incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national five-year development plan. Global partnerships were important, and Member States must meet their ODA pledges. Africa in particular was in dire need of assistance, and investment support, debt relief and facilitated technology transfer were needed to help countries undergoing transition to develop independent resources. It was also important to integrate the informal economy into the formal economy. Illicit financial flows, tax evasion and corruption needed to be combated, and greater international cooperation was required to restore plundered assets. The developing countries needed access to special funding to address the effects of climate change. His delegation hoped that the upcoming Habitat III Conference would make progress towards more sustainable cities.

85. **Mr. Ndong Mba** (Equatorial Guinea) said that the Millennium Development Goals had created a unique platform across countries, enabling integration and cooperation. Equatorial Guinea had had a plan of action that took into account domestic risks and vulnerabilities with a view to creating sustainable growth through a socioeconomic development plan that covered infrastructure, agriculture, health, education and cultural integration. Government investment would set the country on the path to becoming an emerging country by 2020. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals had been based on the principles of political will and political benefit, which were catalysing elements to mobilize all citizens and residents of Equatorial Guinea. Campaigns and meetings had been organized, and the community had been duly informed about projects being carried out and about the need for complete support for the Horizon 2020 programme.

86. Over the next 15 years, Equatorial Guinea would be better placed to mobilize the necessary resources to continue its development activities. Development began with the State, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was based on the stability of the State as the ultimate entity. Where there was no State, there was no development, as indicated by numerous contemporary conflicts where the State had collapsed, leading to disorder. President Obiang Nguema Mabsogo had made the decision to take power because the State had collapsed and needed to be completely rebuilt. If the country had had to follow outside models, it would not have achieved the benefits and the progress that it was currently experiencing.

87. Equatorial Guinea was committed to achieving emerging country status in 2020 by financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whose budget was part of the Horizon 2020 programme. It would cover gaps in investment in the 2030 Agenda by diversifying its income sources and reducing dependence on oil and gas by developing tourism, agriculture and fisheries. By financing its own development projects and relying, wherever possible, on local experts, Equatorial Guinea could keep down development costs, and results would be appropriate for the target population. His Government would continue cooperating with the private sector to encourage investment in the State. As had been the case with the Millennium Development Goals, it would encourage private sector participation through business services in the health, education, agriculture, energy and other sectors. It would remain committed to transparent transactions and maintain the trust of its partners. At the same time, registration procedures for companies that were investing in Equatorial Guinea had been significantly streamlined.

88. **Ms. Aljazi** (Jordan) said that the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the other development milestones of the past year would remain mere ink on paper unless they were implemented effectively. Slowing economic growth, increased unemployment, natural disasters and violent conflicts continued to threaten development gains. Jordan was hosting 1.3 million Syrian refugees, which placed enormous pressure on government services and infrastructure.

89. Despite those extra burdens, the Kingdom's Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development, which had been established in 2002, had laid out a road map that integrated the 2030 Agenda into its national development plan. That road map promoted private-public investment partnerships and was designed to maximize benefit from past experiences and United Nations support. It included a system for monitoring indicators and building statistical capacities.

90. Financing continued to present a challenge to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was important to increase ODA for least developed countries, and

international financial institutions and donor States should adjust criteria for assistance to middle-income countries that, like her own, were affected by regional crises.

91. **Mr. García Moritán** (Argentina) said that the universality of the 2030 Agenda was essential to achieving the overarching goal of poverty eradication and eliminating equalities within and between countries. One of the strengths of the 2030 Agenda was that its commitments applied to all countries, were undertaken voluntarily and took into account the capacities and priorities of every country. In addition to social and environmental approaches, achievement of the Goals required a human rights approach to ensure genuine development for all.

92. Argentina had begun to strengthen its institutional regulations with regard to implementation of each part of the Agenda, on the basis of the coordination structures which had underpinned the successful implementation and follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals.

93. Climate change was the biggest challenge facing the world at the current time. Argentina had ratified the Paris Agreement, along with 63 other countries that were responsible for over 52 per cent of total emissions; it called on the international community to ensure the early entry into force of the Agreement. Argentina was working to improve its environmental policies at the national and regional levels and to support innovative approaches and technology transfer in order to make progress in that area. It had established a new national office on climate change whose purpose was to develop a common approach to reducing emissions and monitoring reductions.

94. Operational activities for development must have a broader and greater role to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in a meaningful way. That would require greater effectiveness, coherence and impact and a significant increase in core resources. In considering the long-term challenges of development, it was important to build national capacity in developing countries. South-South and triangular cooperation were of great importance in that regard; his delegation therefore welcomed the progress made by the United Nations development system in incorporating such cooperation in the strategic plans of a number of agencies.

95. **Mr. Brown** (Liberia) said that the Millennium Development Goals had deepened understanding of the scourges of global poverty, lack of opportunity, rising inequality and pervasive injustice. While those scourges and heightened awareness of them had made people restless and insecure, they had also strengthened the shared conviction that a more ambitious global agenda was needed. Liberia hoped that the needed resources would be mobilized to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with the least developed countries serving as the basis for measuring progress. Full support for the Agenda would enable countries to move out of the poverty trap.

96. Liberia had played a pivotal role in formulating and launching the 2030 Agenda, with President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson serving as Co-Chair of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. His Government had begun domesticating the Goals through robust nationwide consultations and dialogues with major stakeholders, and was formulating a road map to achieve its full integration into Vision 2030, Liberia Rising, the 18-year national development agenda. National ownership efforts included work to develop the national budget and priorities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, in a multidimensional process of decentralization that sought solutions to achieve food security, quality education and job opportunities, with awareness of environmental impact of actions in each area.

97. Home to 42 per cent of the biodiversity of West Africa, Liberia was aware of the need to protect the environment from global warming and the effects of climate change. Its commitment to sustainable land and forest governance and management was reflected in the establishment of a legal verification mechanism and an enforced regulatory framework. Those measures would serve as a balance between environment and development, and a platform for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Poverty reduction and provision of basic social services needed to be managed so as not to jeopardize the rights, safety, happiness and existence of future generations.

98. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that his people faced the worst kind of challenge to sustainable development in the form of Israeli occupation. Reports from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, human rights

organizations and the United Nations had provided plenty of evidence that Israel, the occupying Power, was engaging in the premeditated and systematic destruction of any potential components of sustainable development for the Palestinian people. Seven decades earlier, the Palestinians had had three airports, four seaports, an electricity company, a banking system, a national currency and all the other prerequisites for the statehood that should rightfully have been theirs under General Assembly resolution 181 (II). However, after the Zionist movement seized 78 per cent of Palestine and then later occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Palestinians saw their resources and development capacities stripped away in full view of the international community by a regime that was evidently above international law. The recent report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people (A/71/174) had shown how asymmetrical power relationships denied Palestinians access to their land, water and natural resources while Israeli settlements continued to expand.

99. The 2030 Agenda declared explicitly that there could be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Israel's almost 600 terrorist settlements and its control of some 60 per cent of the West Bank continued to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to development. If the Member States wished to demonstrate that they were truly serious about implementing the resolutions they had adopted, they should stop importing products from the Israeli settlements and refuse the terrorist settlers transit within their territories.

100. **Mr. Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that while the significant international commitments made in 2015 had demonstrated a willingness among political leaders to address global challenges together, inequalities among and within countries had grown even more gaping and the number of violent conflicts had increased, provoking the current unparalleled humanitarian crisis. A human-centred approach must form the foundation for addressing the interconnected challenges of environmental, economic and social development and promoting the dignity and worth of all persons, in order to avoid a reductionist approach that viewed the human person as an obstacle to development or, worse, the cause of his or her own underdevelopment and neediness.

101. Integral human development required macroeconomic policies capable of creating stable financial, commercial and economic growth to meet humanity's basic needs. Such a model must address people's spiritual, social, environmental and physical needs and come from within communities that invested in and provided what was necessary to satisfy basic needs such as food, housing, health care and work, and to enjoy less tangible rights such as education, freedom of expression and religious freedom. Integral human development was more than the sum total of resources invested in development projects and their measurable results; it also included intangible elements that were transformative and contributed to greater human well-being.

102. To bring about such development, a renewed commitment was needed to create equitable mechanisms for global trade and multilateral financial assistance. Human and financial resources were often far removed from those who consumed and produced them. Globalization could manifest itself as global indifference to the needs of others, or, at its best, take the form of global solidarity and commitment to meet responsibilities towards those in need. Global solidarity fostered greater social cohesion and harmony; it meant ensuring that global trade and financial and economic systems incorporated ethical and moral structures that recognized responsibilities to communities, locally and globally, and to humanity's common home.

103. There had been dramatic changes in patterns of population settlements since the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) in 1976, creating new challenges, especially in mega urban settings. His delegation hoped that Habitat III would provide an opportunity to address housing and urbanization challenges in a holistic, people-centred manner.

104. **Mr. Mabhongo** (International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)) said that the adoption of Agenda 2030 represented the first time that world leaders had explicitly recognized that science, technology and innovation were essential for development. Nuclear science had numerous peaceful applications that could help countries to reduce poverty and hunger, improve

energy supplies, diagnose and treat diseases, address ocean acidification and respond to climate change. Cancer control was a particular focus of IAEA. The Agency was working hard to help remedy shortages of equipment and trained medical and technical experts to treat cancer effectively.

105. IAEA also had a proven ability to respond quickly to health emergencies around the world. Two years earlier, it had helped countries in West Africa respond to the outbreak of Ebola by providing diagnostic kits, laboratory supplies and technical advice. It was currently responding in a similar way to the Zika virus in Latin America and the Caribbean.

106. The Agency's nuclear applications laboratories offered training to scientists, supported research in human health, food and other areas and provided analytical services to national laboratories. The Agency made nuclear techniques available to fight insect pests such as the tsetse fly and the fruit fly, and to develop new varieties of food crops that were more resistant to drought and disease. Jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IAEA had generated more than 3,200 new varieties of food, such as wheat and rice, using nuclear techniques. Other nuclear technologies included isotopic techniques that helped to improve child nutrition, evaluate the impact of climate change and ocean acidification, track pollutants, assess soil erosion and determine water quality.

107. IAEA, working with its partners, had extensive experience in bringing about successful cooperation among developed and developing countries and in providing access to nuclear science and technology in order to have a lasting, beneficial impact on people, industries and economies.

108. **Ms. Puri** (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that under the recent major instruments, gender equality and women's empowerment were both a means of achieving sustainable development and an end in themselves. Gender equality and women's empowerment were also a stand-alone goal. The Committee must recognize and reflect that seismic change in its work. While gender equality had previously been seen more as an agenda item for the Third Committee, it was also an important issue for the Second Committee and must inform everything that it did.

109. The gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be a central element of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which should empower and reposition the United Nations development system to maximize its impact at the country level. It should leverage the normative gains of 2015 to help accelerate gender equality achievements and ensure that no woman or girl was left behind; provide operational policy guidance on how to accelerate transformative results, while mainstreaming a gender perspective across the United Nations development system; and further strengthen United Nations system institutional compliance and the coordination and accountability function UN-Women. The next generation of United Nations gender equality champions must be supported and empowered.

110. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the strategic framework of FAO touched upon at least 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and set out a results-oriented approach to help fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda. FAO was putting its global expertise and networks at the service of the Agenda to help identify best practices and design and implement successful policies and programmes, monitor progress and contribute to concrete transformation on the ground. It was working in partnership with Governments, the United Nations system, communities and other development actors and had a global network of offices in 150 countries where it was an active member of United Nations country teams.

111. Despite progress in many countries, nearly 795 million people still suffered from chronic hunger. Over 70 per cent of the world's poor and food insecure lived in rural areas of developing countries. Lacking opportunities for a decent life, rural people were often forced to leave their homes in search of better opportunities. Promoting inclusive and resilient rural development and improved food systems was therefore central to the success of the 2030 Agenda and an important part of efforts to promote sustainable production and consumption and reduce food loss and waste, increase efficiency in the use of water and ensure sustainable management of land and ocean resources.

112. World Food Day would be marked on 17 October. The theme of World Food Day 2016 would be the impact of climate change on food and agriculture and the need to change food systems.

113. **Mr. Pinhero** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that the creation of decent jobs for young people would be a major sustainable development challenge in the coming years. Trends of low and jobless economic growth and the spread of labour-saving technologies could compromise the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 8 on sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Some of the agenda items before the Committee could provide an important opportunity to reflect on those issues and support Member States' implementation of the 2015 commitments.

114. ILO studies showed that the low carbon economy was more job-intensive and that work created by the transition to clean energy and more sustainable production patterns could offset the loss of jobs in emissions-intensive industries. Well-managed transitions to environmentally and socially sustainable economies could become strong drivers of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication. With 200 million people out of work worldwide and over 600 million people who would need to be included in the workforce over the next 30 years, full employment must be set as a macroeconomic target.

115. ILO looked forward to discussing the results of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), with an emphasis on the theme of full employment and decent work for all, and its follow- up. Achieving universal social protection was a major milestone in that process.

116. The 2030 Agenda provided a strong link between decent work and migration. Labour rights must be respected, and countries should consider opening labour markets to refugees. Migration held major benefits for countries of origin and destination alike.

117. **Ms. Carpentier** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that current economic trends were threatening the integration of the 2030 Agenda on the economic side, particularly with respect to trade, investment, technology, innovation and debt. For the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved, those areas must be properly managed. The benefits of globalization and improved macroeconomic management had helped many developing countries integrate into the global economy.

118. The Sustainable Development Goals must be used to turn around the global economy. Knowledge, tools and funds must be used together to support implementation, particularly for the benefit of the least developed, African, landlocked and small island developing States, as well as middle-income countries and other countries in special situations. That was the only way to stem the rise of protectionism and isolationism, restore trust in the global economy and re-establish globalization as an engine of inclusive prosperity for all.

119. The outcome document of UNCTAD 14, had strengthened UNCTAD as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and had also realigned the three UNCTAD pillars of consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical assistance to make sure that together, they put globalization at the service of the implementation of Agenda 2030. UNCTAD had launched a multi-donor trust fund on trade and productive capacity to make it easier for donors to supplement the technical cooperation of UNCTAD and its 15 partners within the United Nations system. It was also initiating deeper and more inclusive partnerships, such as its recently launched eTrade for All initiative, which brought together 15 international organizations, including development banks, three Member State donors and 22 private sector actors. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD had just named Mr. Jack Ma, the chief executive officer and founder of Alibaba Group, as the UNCTAD Special Advisor on Youth Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprise. Young people and entrepreneurs were among the most critical actors whose engagement was needed to achieve the Goals.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.